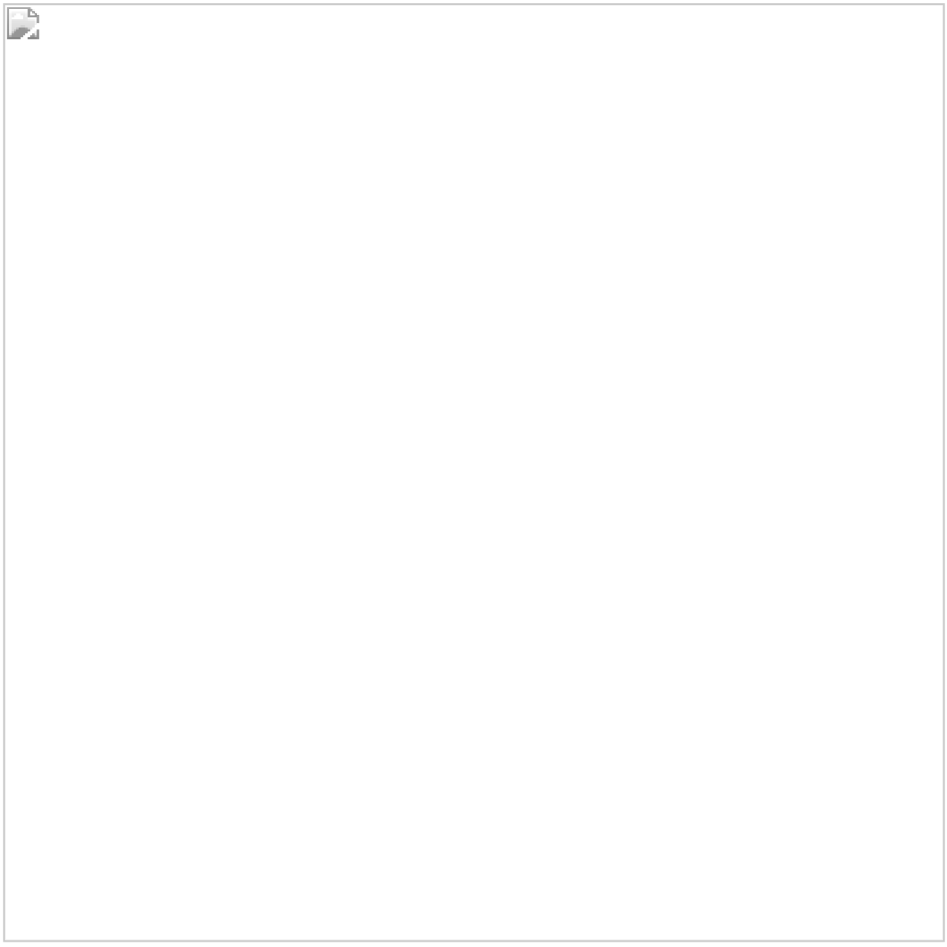
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Passing of Arthur

A Hero of England



King Arthur loved his own country so much that winning glory at home made him happier than any glory far away. But a false knight and his followers were laying waste a land across the sea, and Arthur sailed to stop him.

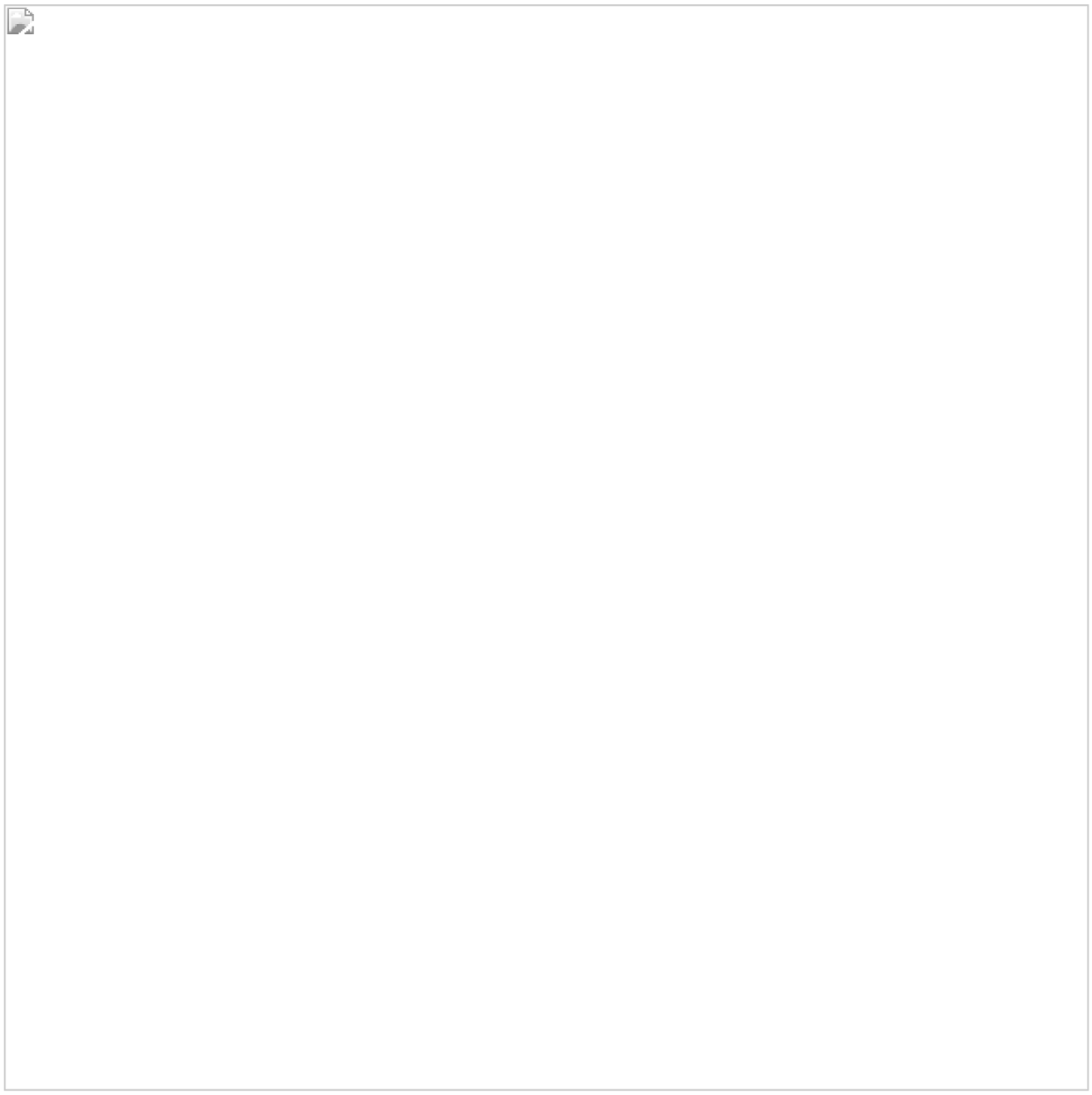
Before he went, he said to Sir Modred, “And you, Sir Modred, will rule the country while I am gone.”

TALK ABOUT IT

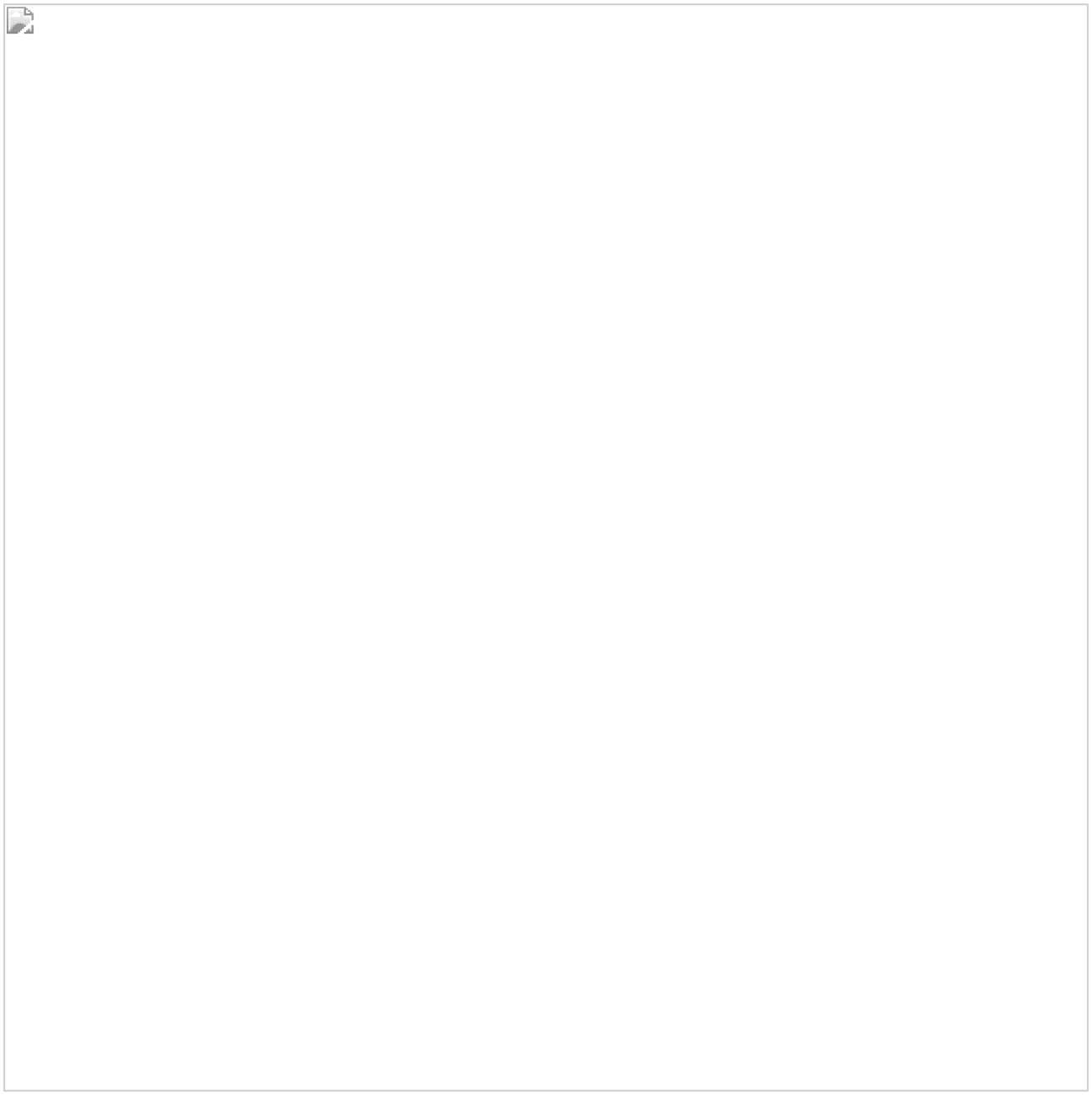
King Arthur trusted Sir Modred to take care of his country. Why does it matter so much when someone trusts you?

This book belongs to _____

The Passing of Arthur · another picture



Sir Modred Rules



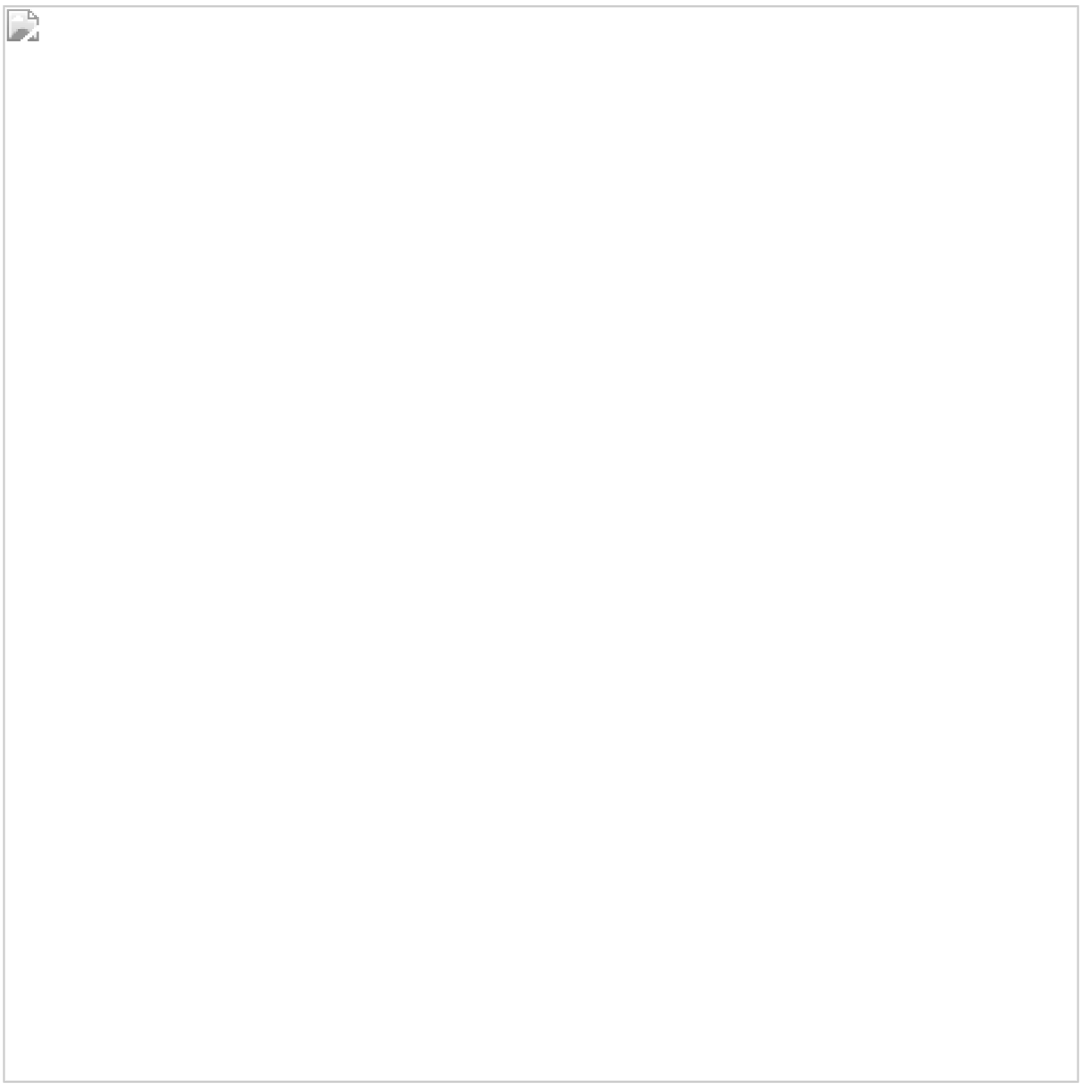
At first the people missed their great King. But as the months went by, they began to talk only of Sir Modred and his ways.

Sir Modred wanted the people to praise him, so he made easier laws than Arthur ever had. Soon many in the country wished that the King would never come back.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sir Modred made easy laws so that people would like him. Is that a good reason to do something? Why or why not?

Sir Modred Rules · another picture

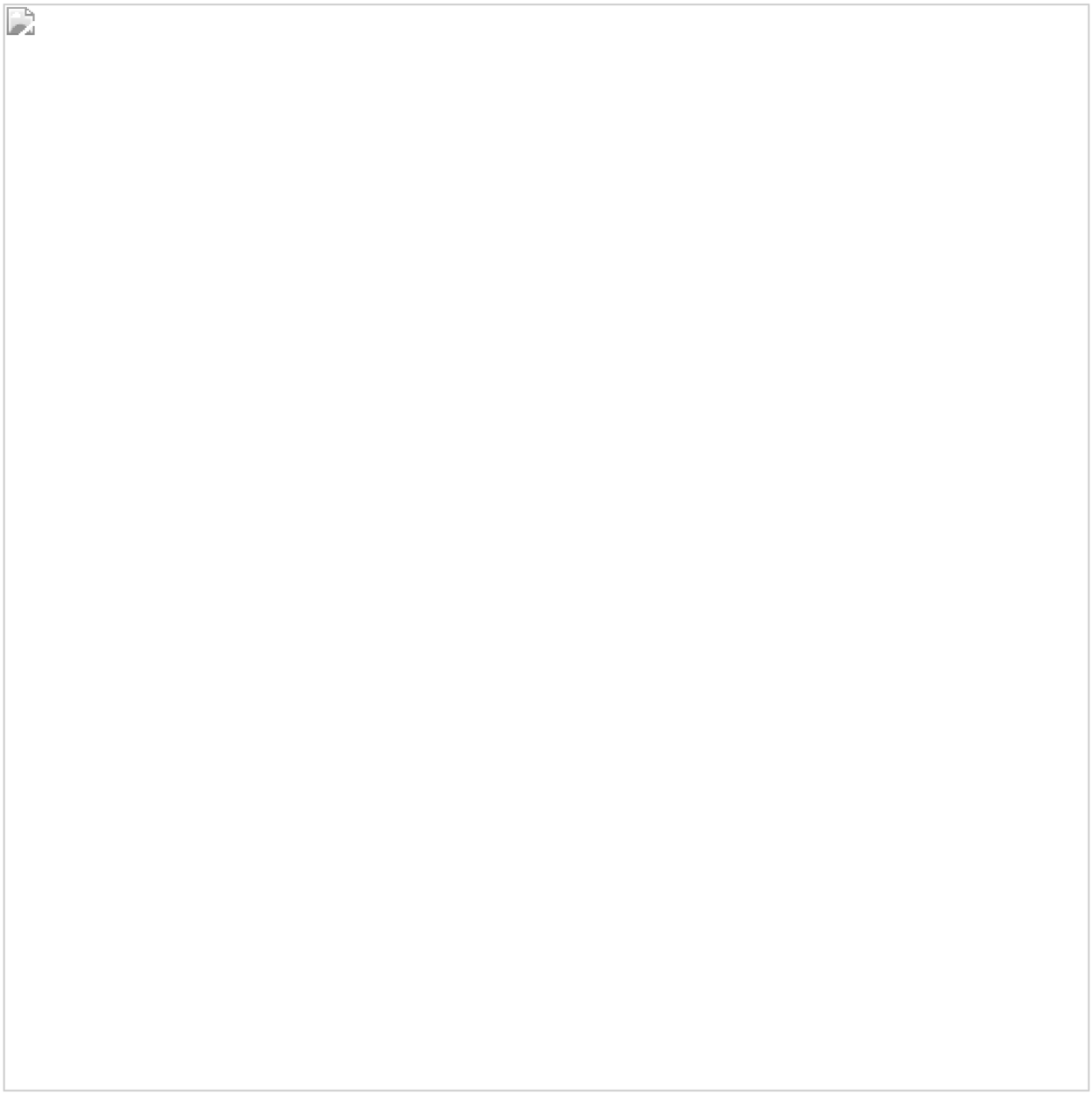


Think about it

1. Why did Sir Modred make easier laws?

- ○ To help the poor
- ○ To gain the people's praise
- ○ Because Arthur told him to

The False Letters

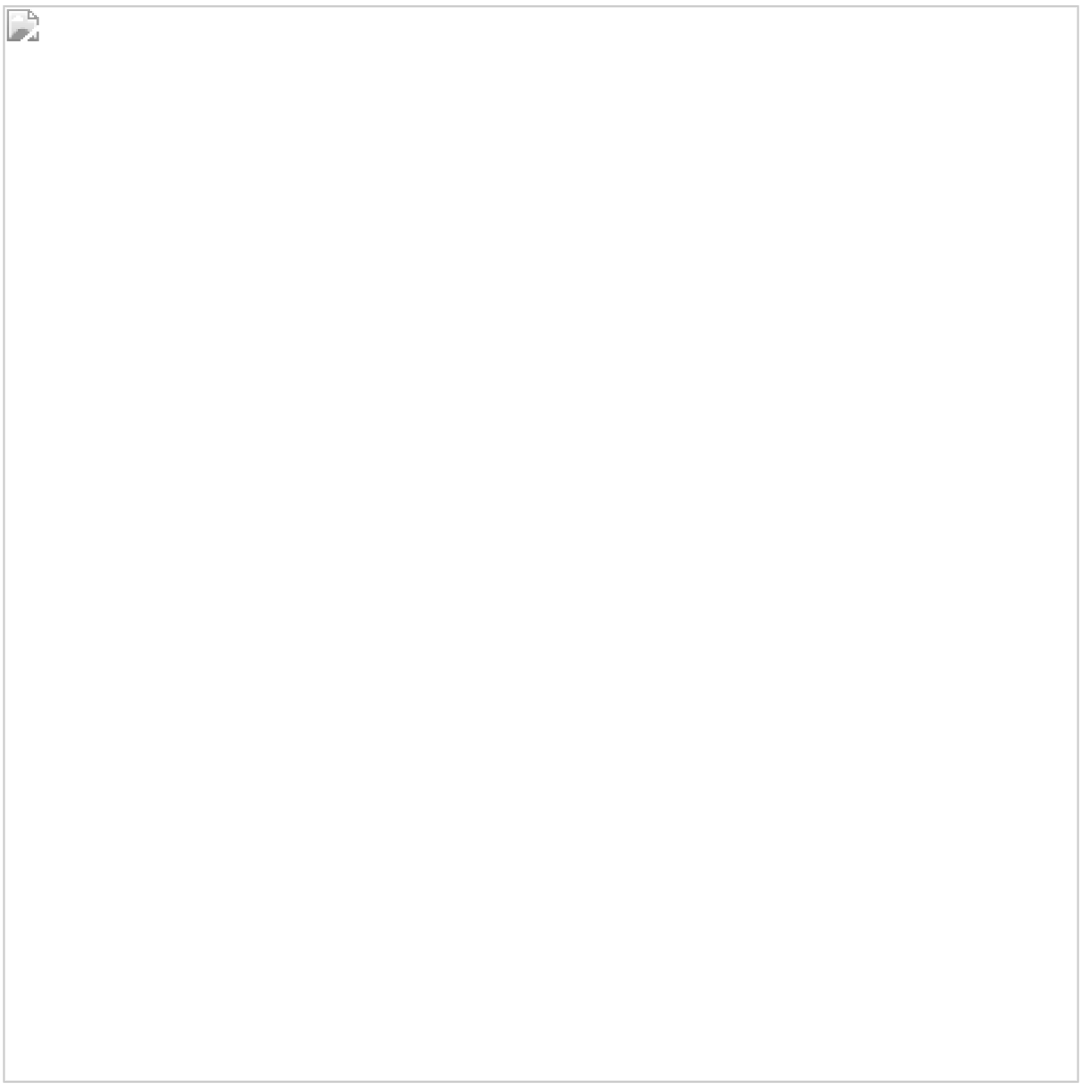


When Sir Modred saw what the people wished, he made up his mind to do a cruel thing. He had letters written, as if from across the sea, to say that King Arthur had been killed in battle.

Some people wept for the noble King. Others had no time to weep. “We must find a new king,” they said, and they chose Sir Modred. They took him to Canterbury, and amid shouts and rejoicing he was crowned.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sir Modred told the people something that was not true, and they believed it. What can happen when someone lies about something big?

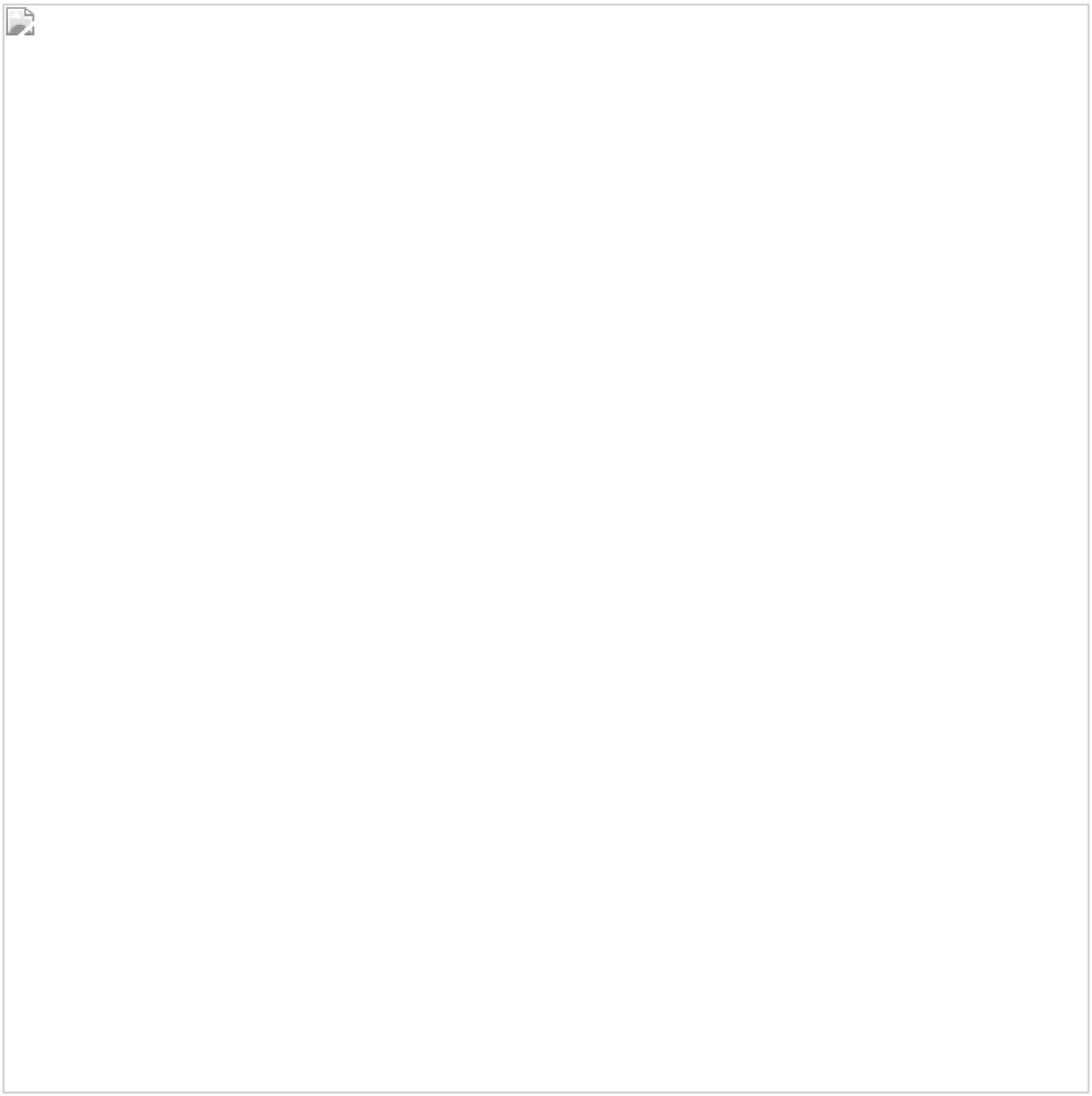


Think about it

1. What did the false letters say?

- ○ That a feast was coming
- ○ That the sea was calm
- ○ That King Arthur was dead

The King Comes Home



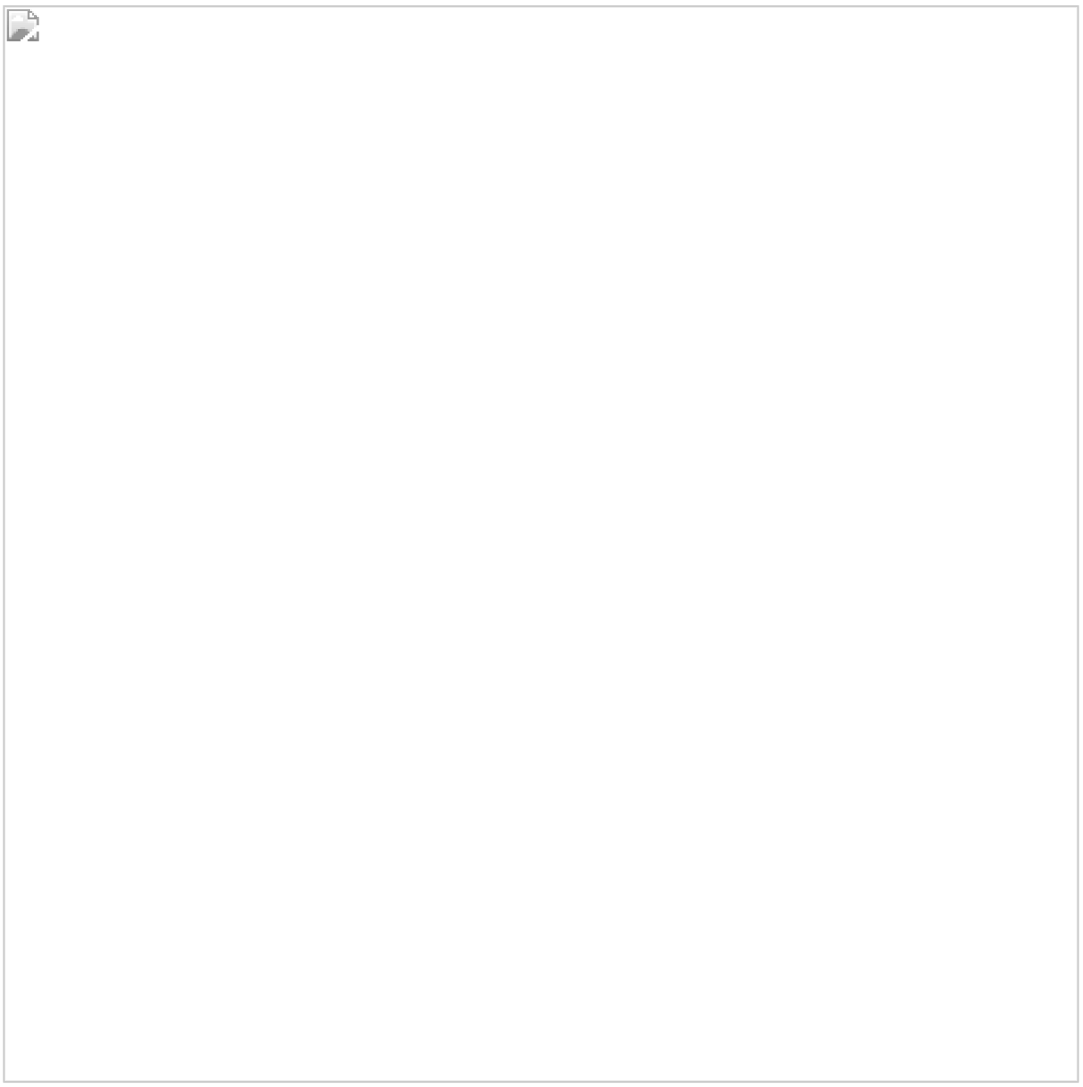
But it was not long before other letters came across the sea. King Arthur was not dead. He was coming home.

Sir Modred gathered a great army to keep him from landing at Dover. But Arthur and his knights fought their way to shore. Many people left Sir Modred then, calling him a traitor, and went back to their true King.

Sir Modred would not give up. He went to raise a new army.

TALK ABOUT IT

The people went back to King Arthur when they learned the truth. Why do you think they did?

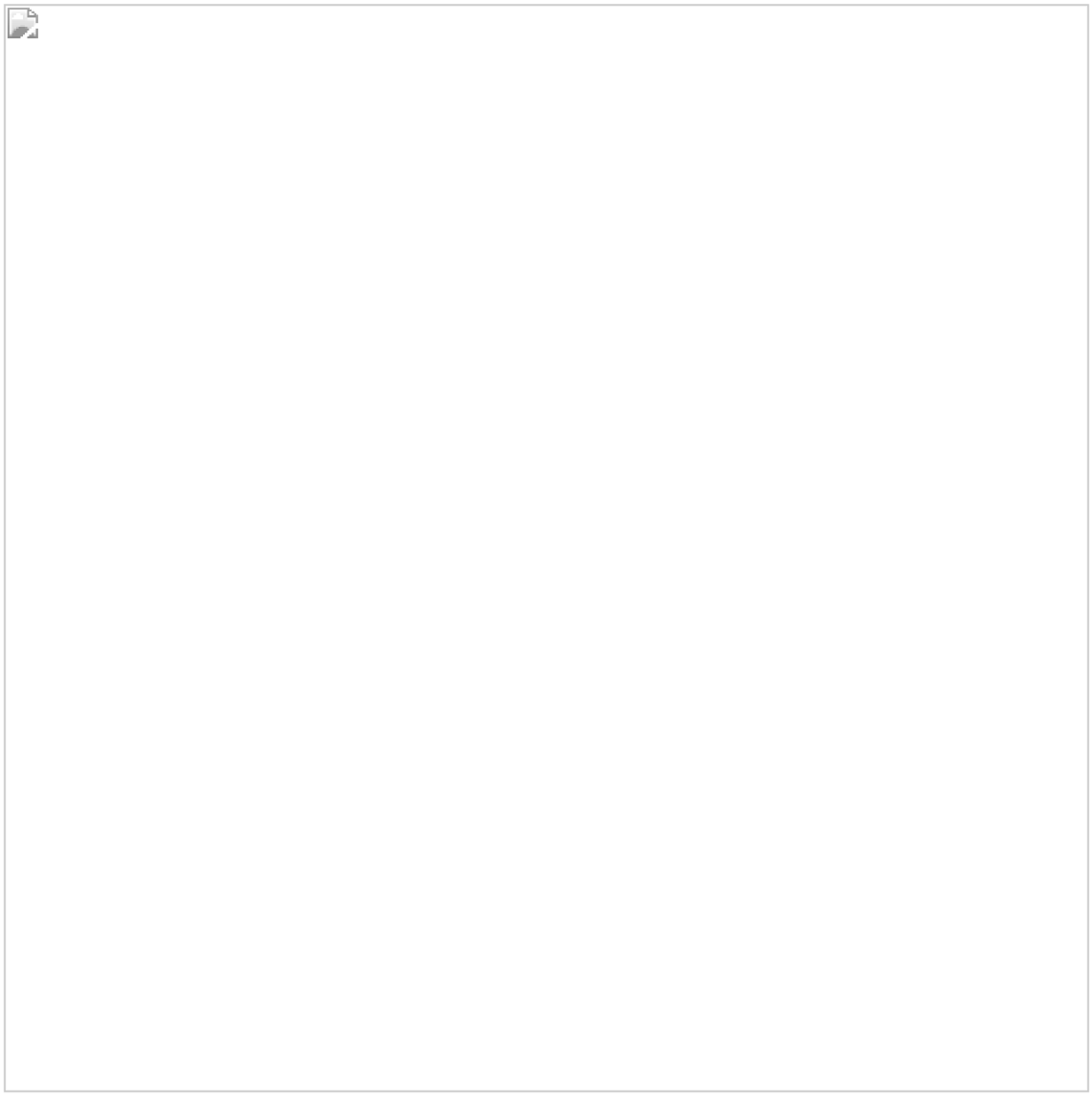


Think about it

1. Where did the King land?

- ○ At Dover
- ○ At Camelot
- ○ In the desert

The Meeting Ends in a Battle



King Arthur had dreamed that if he fought Sir Modred again he would be slain. So he sent two bishops. “Say to the knight that the King would speak with him alone,” he said. Each would bring fourteen men, and no one was to lift a sword.

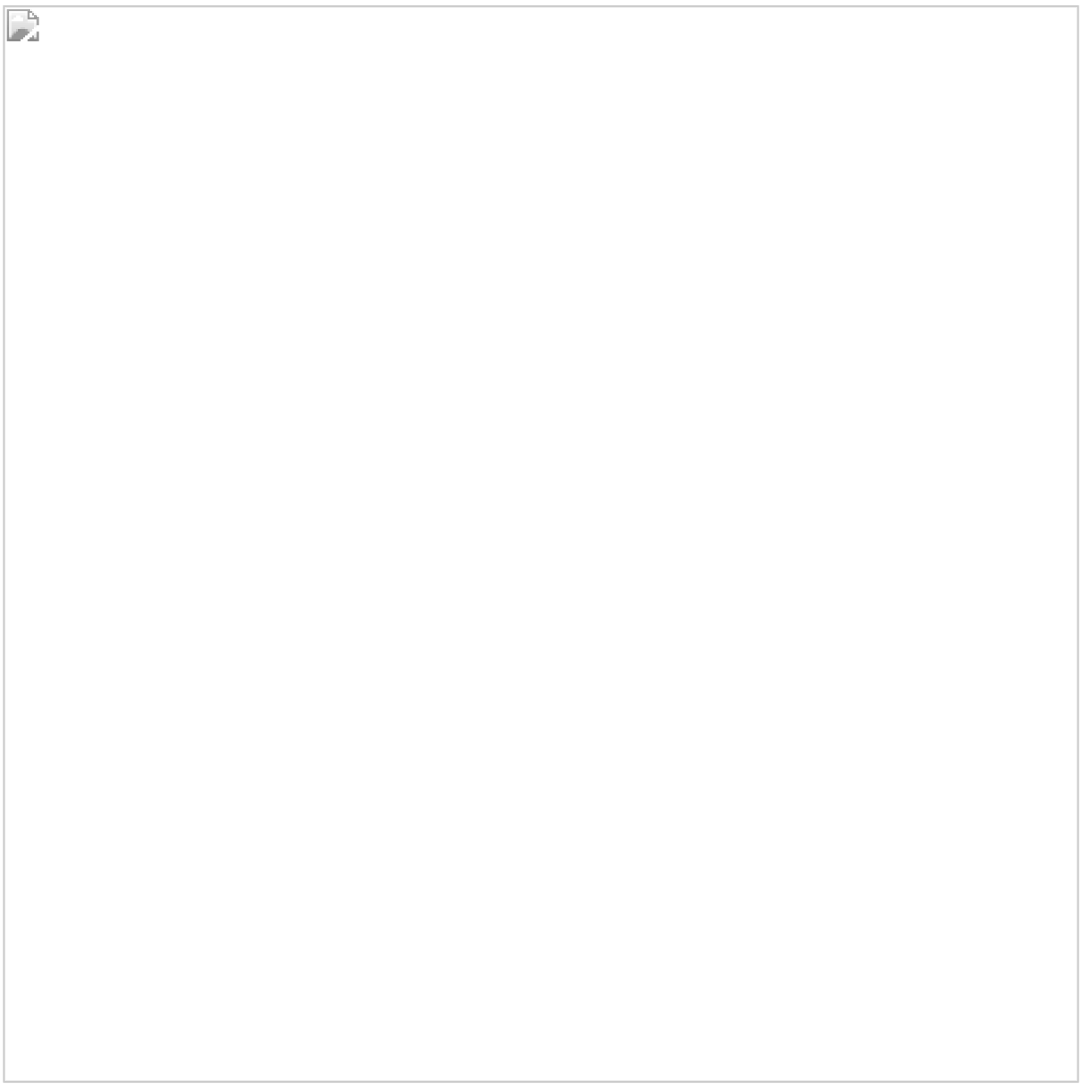
At the feast, an adder glided out of a bush and stung one of Sir Modred's men. The man drew his sword to kill it. When the armies saw the sword flash, they thought it was the signal, and began to fight.

By evening, many were lost and the King had only two knights left, Sir Lucan and Sir Bedivere.

TALK ABOUT IT

One small snake, and a battle began that nobody wanted. How could the people have stopped it, do you think?

The Meeting Ends in a Battle · another picture



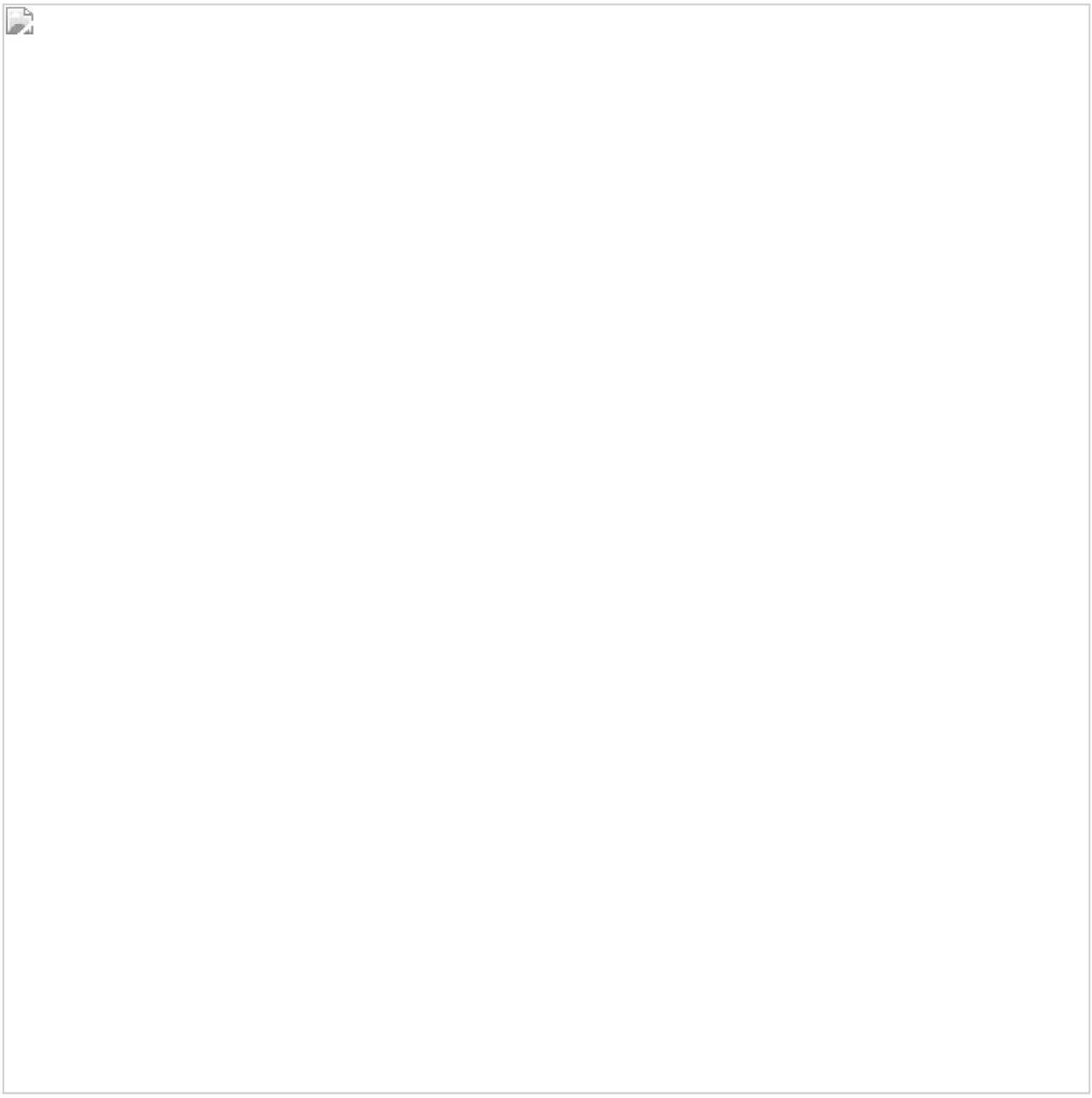
Think about it

1. What started the fight?

- ○ A trumpet
- ○ A drawn sword
- ○ A thunderstorm

2. Arthur wanted to talk, not fight. What do you think of his plan?

The King Is Hurt



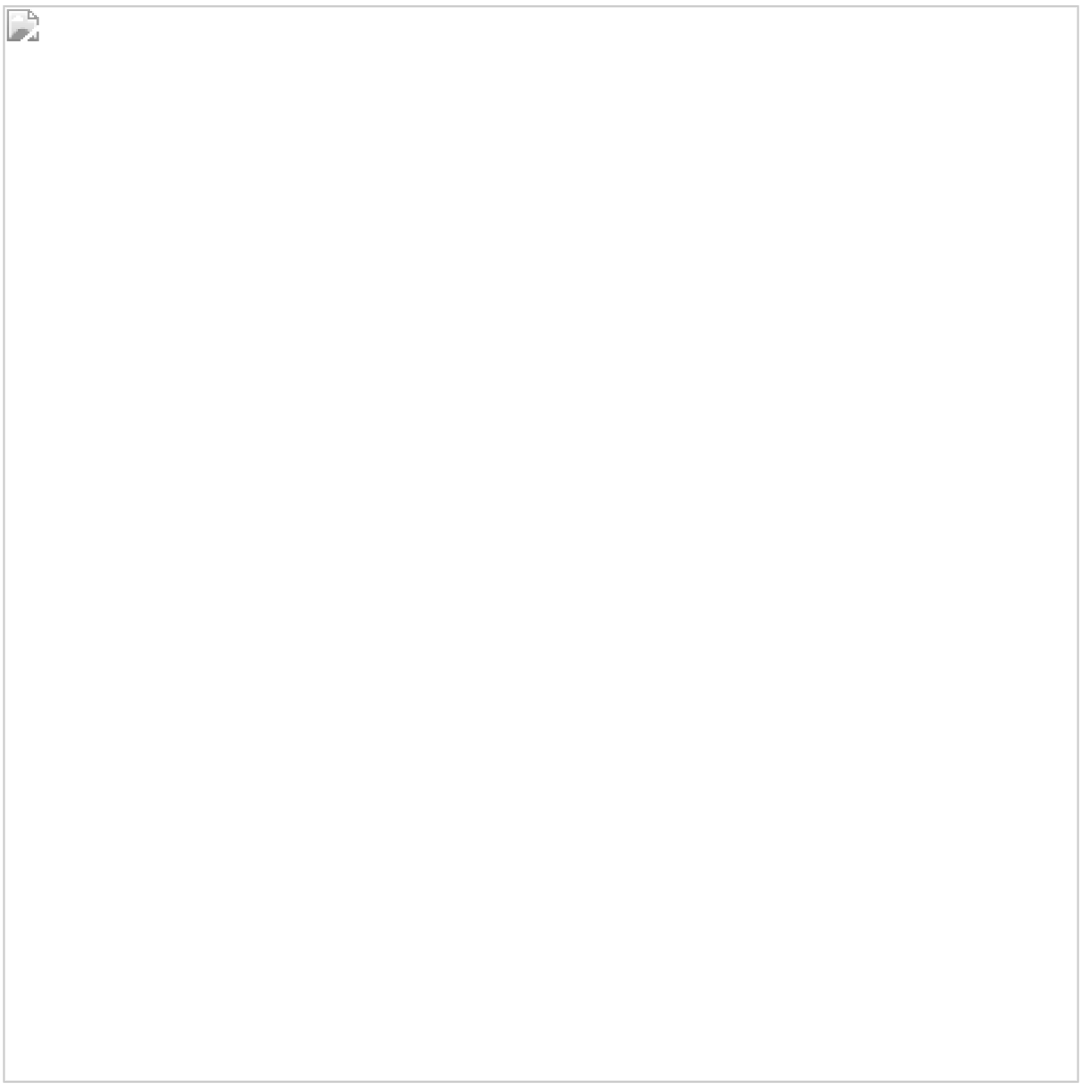
“Would to God I could find Sir Modred, who has caused all this trouble,” said the King.

Sir Lucan reminded him of his dream. “Go not near him.” But Arthur went with his spear to Sir Modred, and Sir Modred fell, and was killed.

The King was wounded and tired, and he fainted. His two knights lifted him and carried him to a little chapel near a lake.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sir Lucan begged the King to stay away. Why do you think he cared so much?

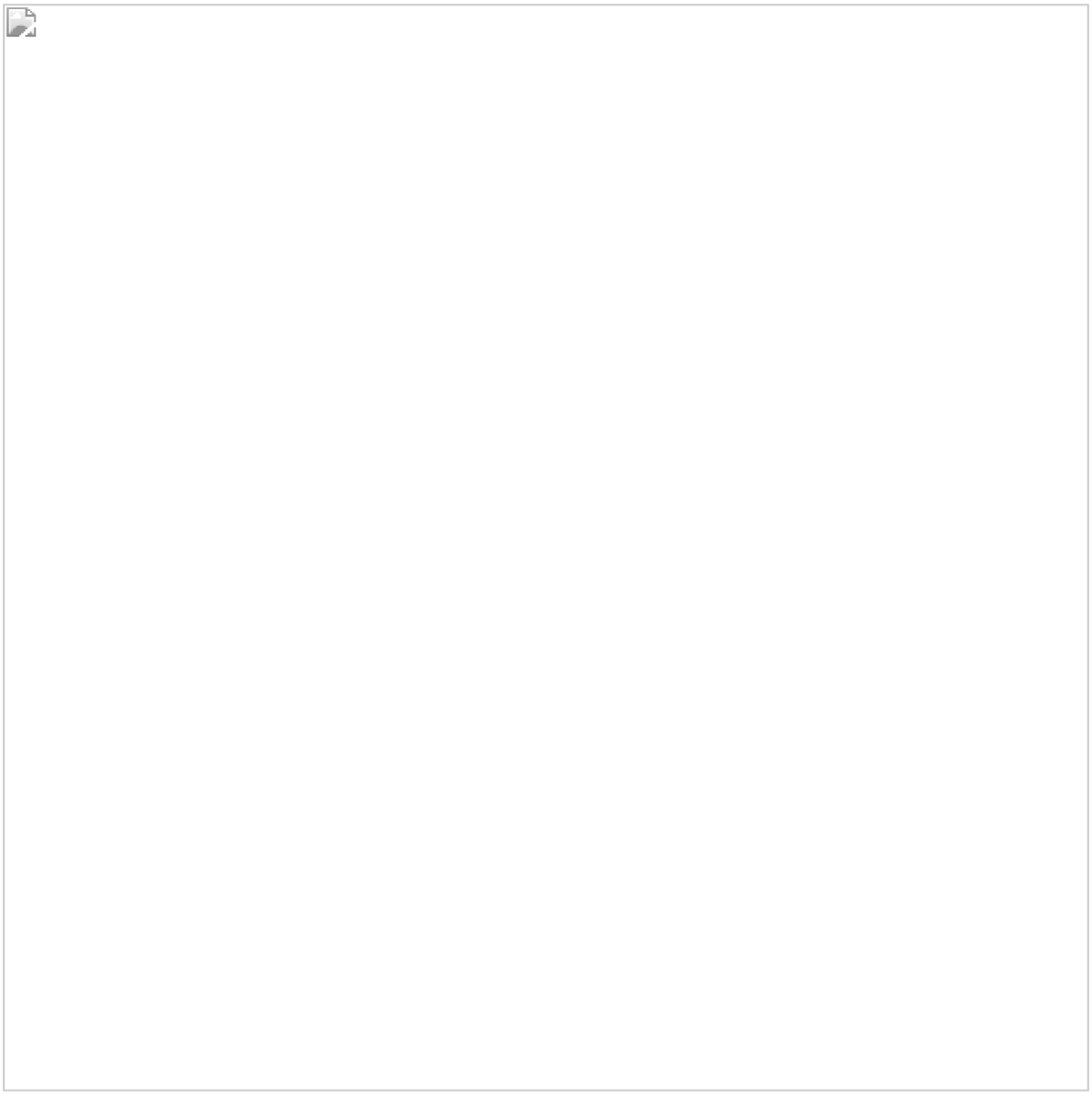


Think about it

1. Where did the knights carry the King?

- ○ To a little chapel by a lake
- ○ To Camelot
- ○ To a ship

Sir Lucan



In the chapel the King heard cries from the faraway battlefield. Sir Lucan went to see, and found robbers in the moonlight, taking rings and gold from those who had fallen.

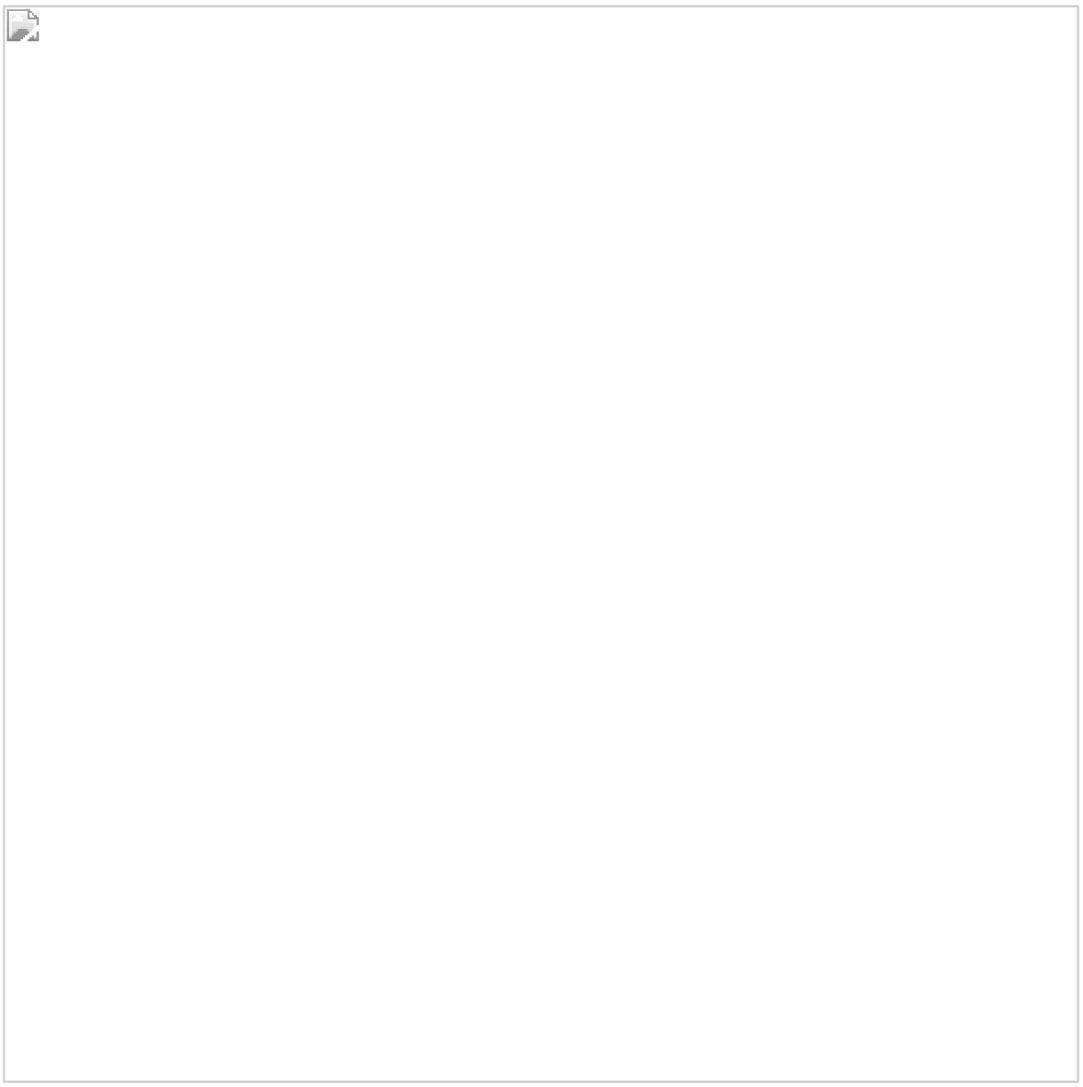
“We will carry you farther off,” the knights told the King, “lest the robbers find us here.” Sir Lucan and Sir Bedivere lifted him.

But Sir Lucan had been hurt in the fight. As he lifted the King, he fell back and died. Arthur and Sir Bedivere wept for the fallen knight.

TALK ABOUT IT

Arthur and Sir Bedivere wept for Sir Lucan. How do you think they felt? What helps when someone you love is gone?

Sir Lucan · another picture

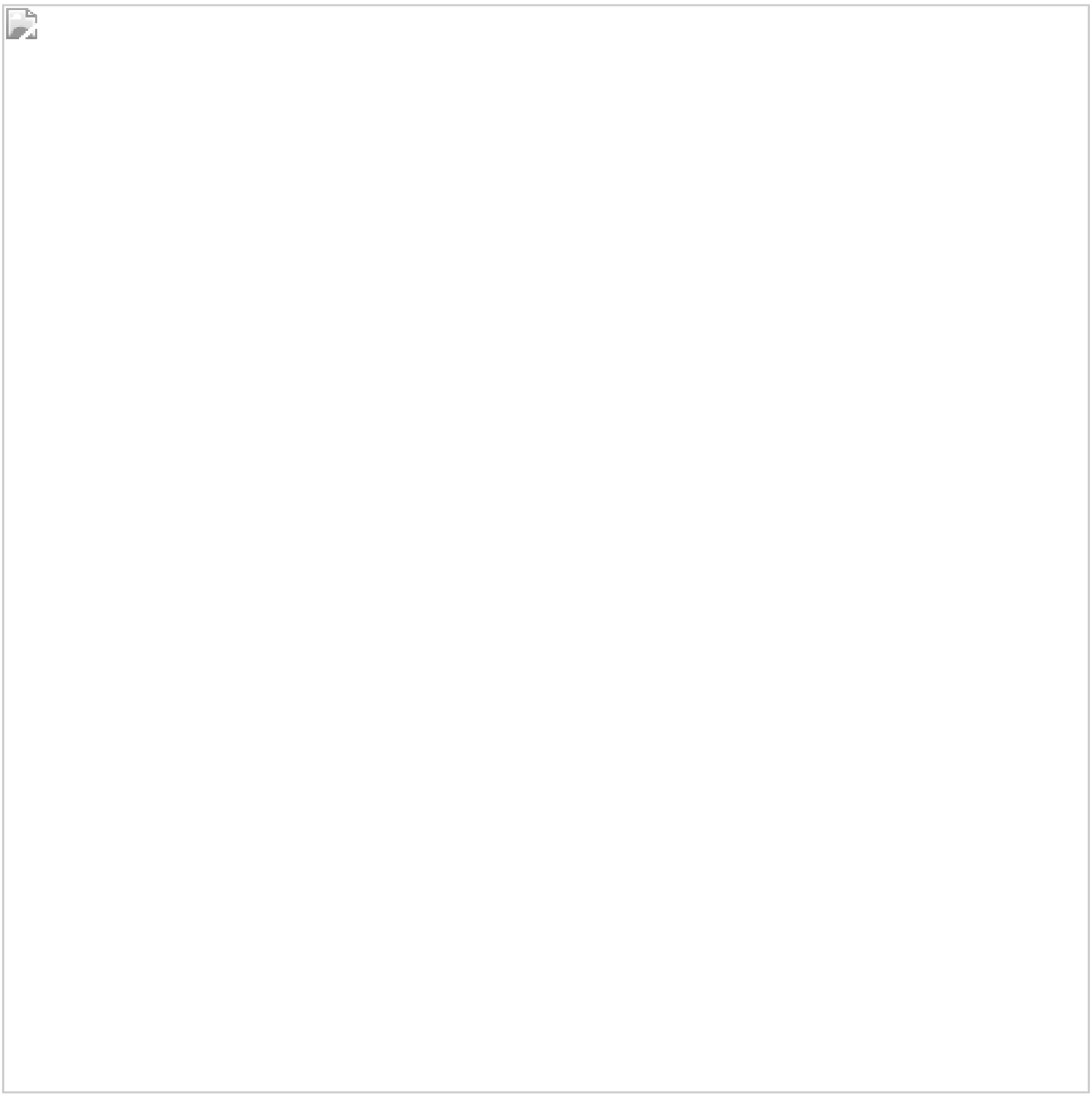


Think about it

1. Who was left with the King?

- ○ Sir Modred
- ○ Sir Kay
- ○ Sir Bedivere

Excalibur



The King was very ill. “Take Excalibur, my good sword,” he said to Sir Bedivere, “and go with it to the lake, and throw it into its waters. Then come quickly and tell me what you see.”

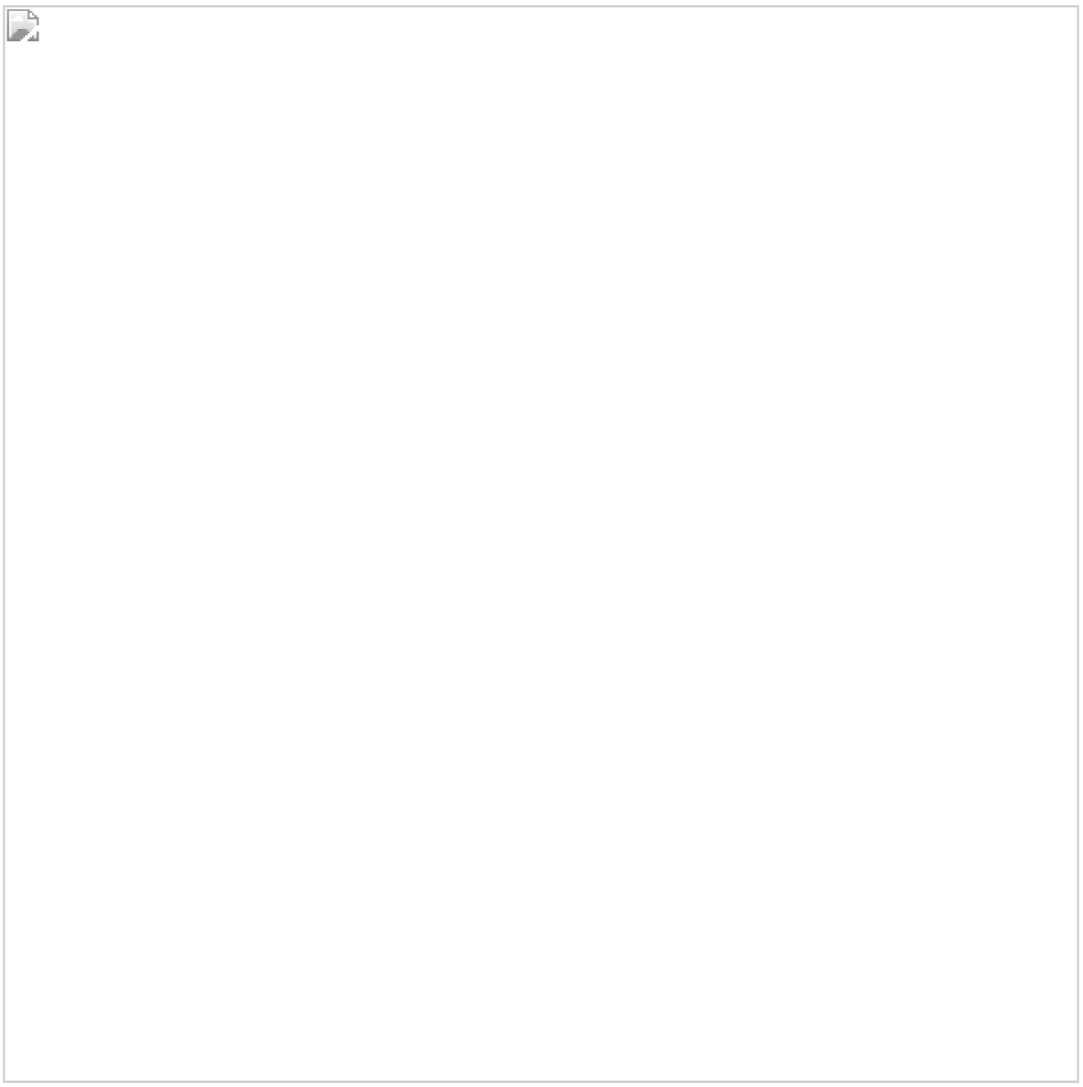
Sir Bedivere went to the lake. But he looked at the sparkling jewels on the handle, and he could not do it. “I will hide it carefully here among the rushes,” he thought.

He went back and told the King he had thrown it in. “What did you see?” asked the King. “Nothing but the ripple of the waves,” said Sir Bedivere. “You have not told me the truth,” said the King.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sir Bedivere did not tell the truth, even to a King he loved. Why do you think he did that?

Excalibur · another picture

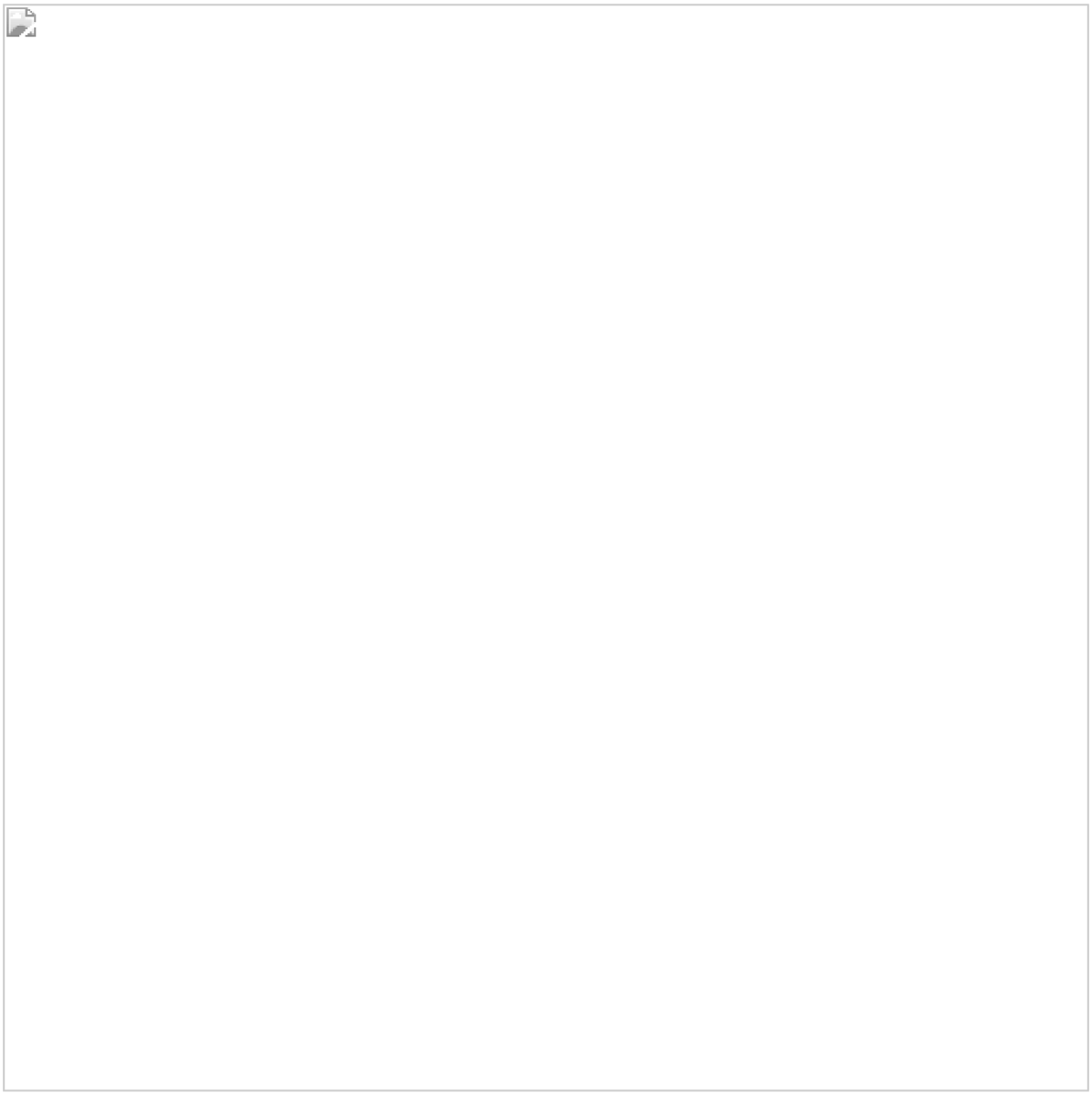


Think about it

1. What did Sir Bedivere do with the sword?

- ○ Threw it in the lake
- ○ Kept it in his belt
- ○ Hid it in the rushes

A Second Time



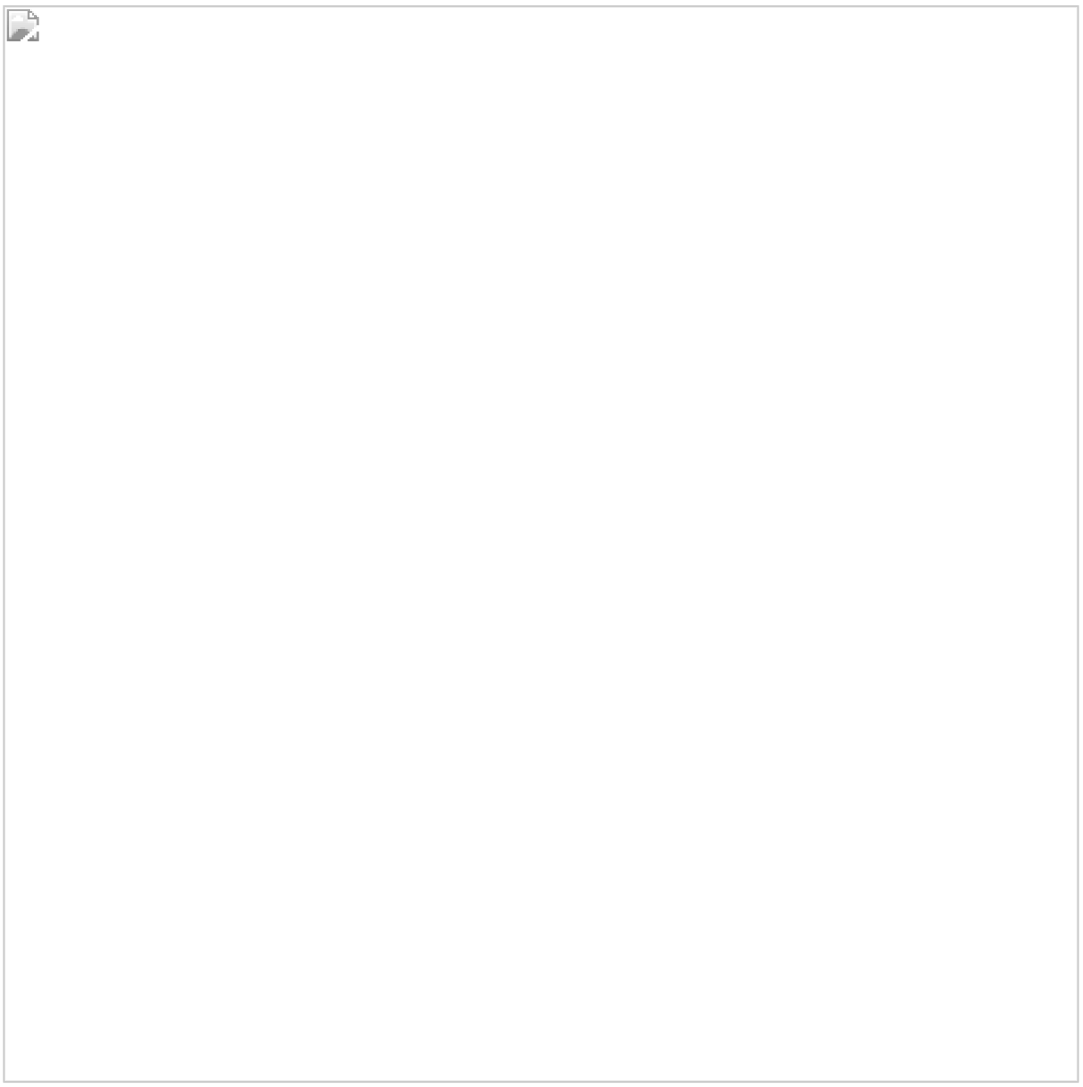
“If you love me,” said the King, “go again to the lake, and throw my sword into the water.”

Sir Bedivere went again. He wanted to do what the King asked, because he loved him. But again the beauty of the sword made him stop. “It is a noble sword; I will not throw it away,” he said, and hid it again.

“You have betrayed me twice,” said the King sadly, “and yet you are a noble knight!”

TALK ABOUT IT

King Arthur said Sir Bedivere had failed him twice, and still called him a noble knight. What does that tell you about King Arthur?



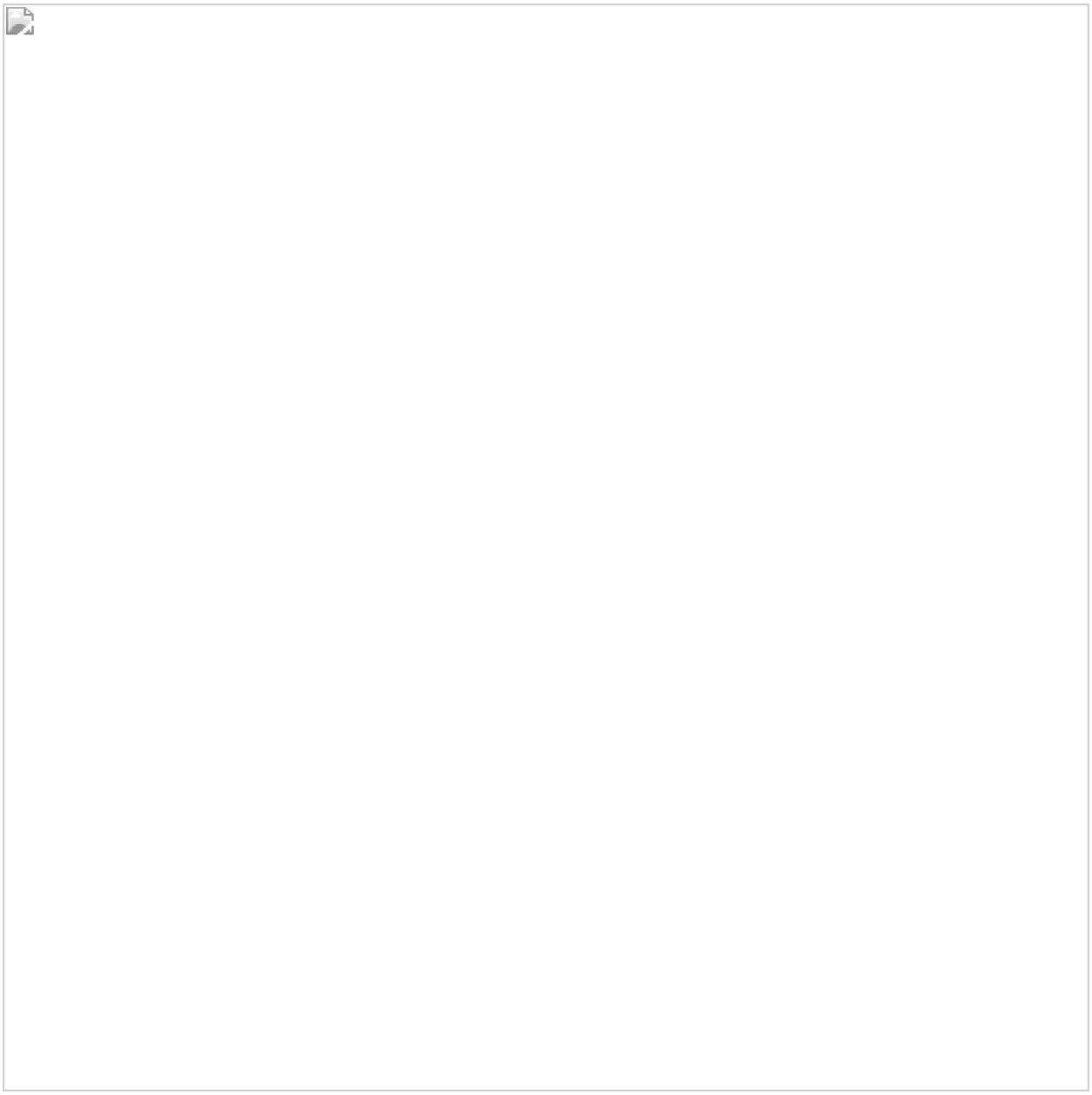
Think about it

1. What did the King call Sir Bedivere, even after he failed?

- ○ A thief
- ○ A noble knight
- ○ A stranger

2. When someone lets you down, what helps you give them another chance?

The Third Time



“Go again to the lake,” said the King, “and do not betray me for a rich sword.”

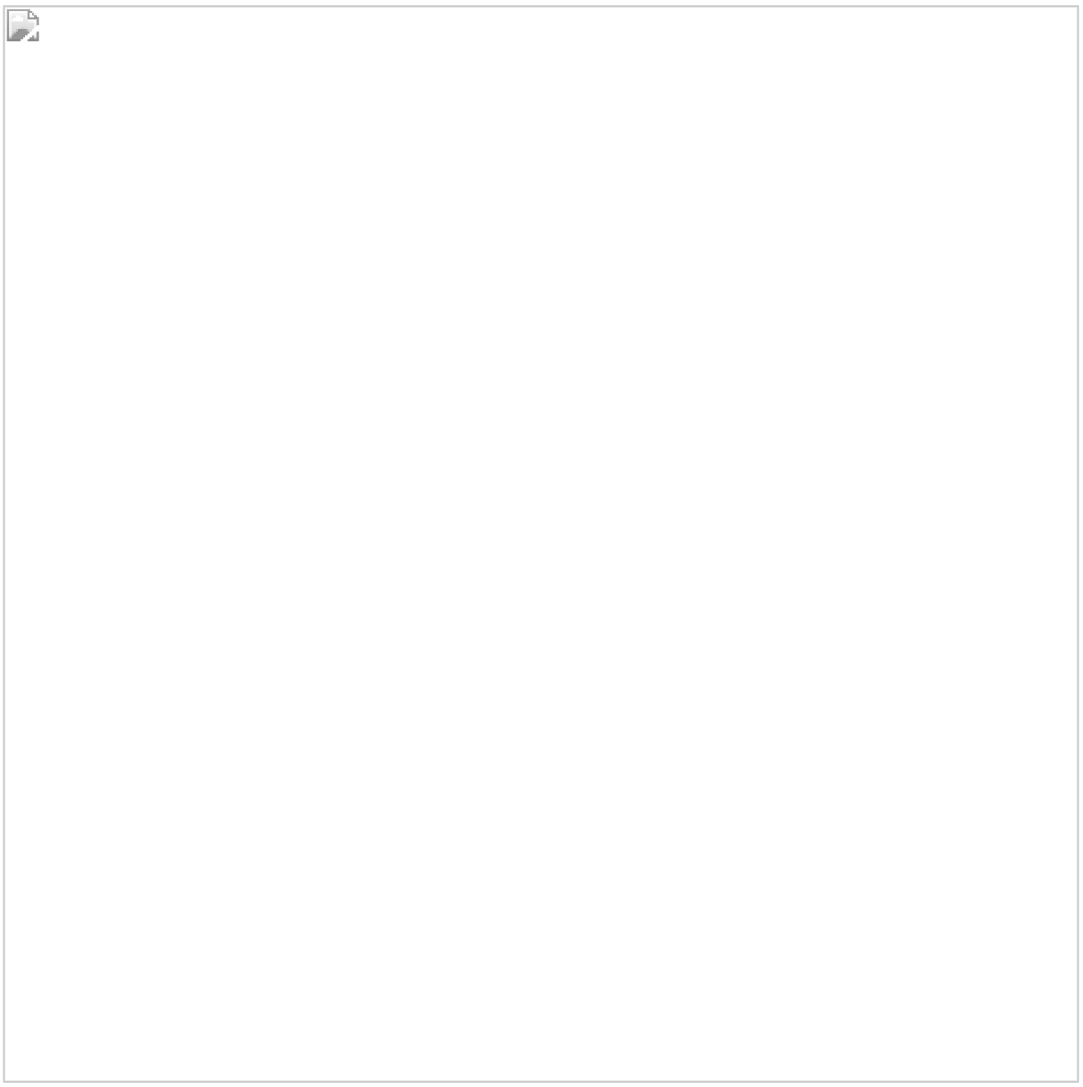
This time Sir Bedivere drew the sword from the rushes and threw it as far as he could into the lake.

An arm and a hand rose above the water. The hand caught the sword, shook it three times, and was gone beneath the water.

Sir Bedivere hurried back and told the King what he had seen.

TALK ABOUT IT

The third time, Sir Bedivere did it. What do you think changed?

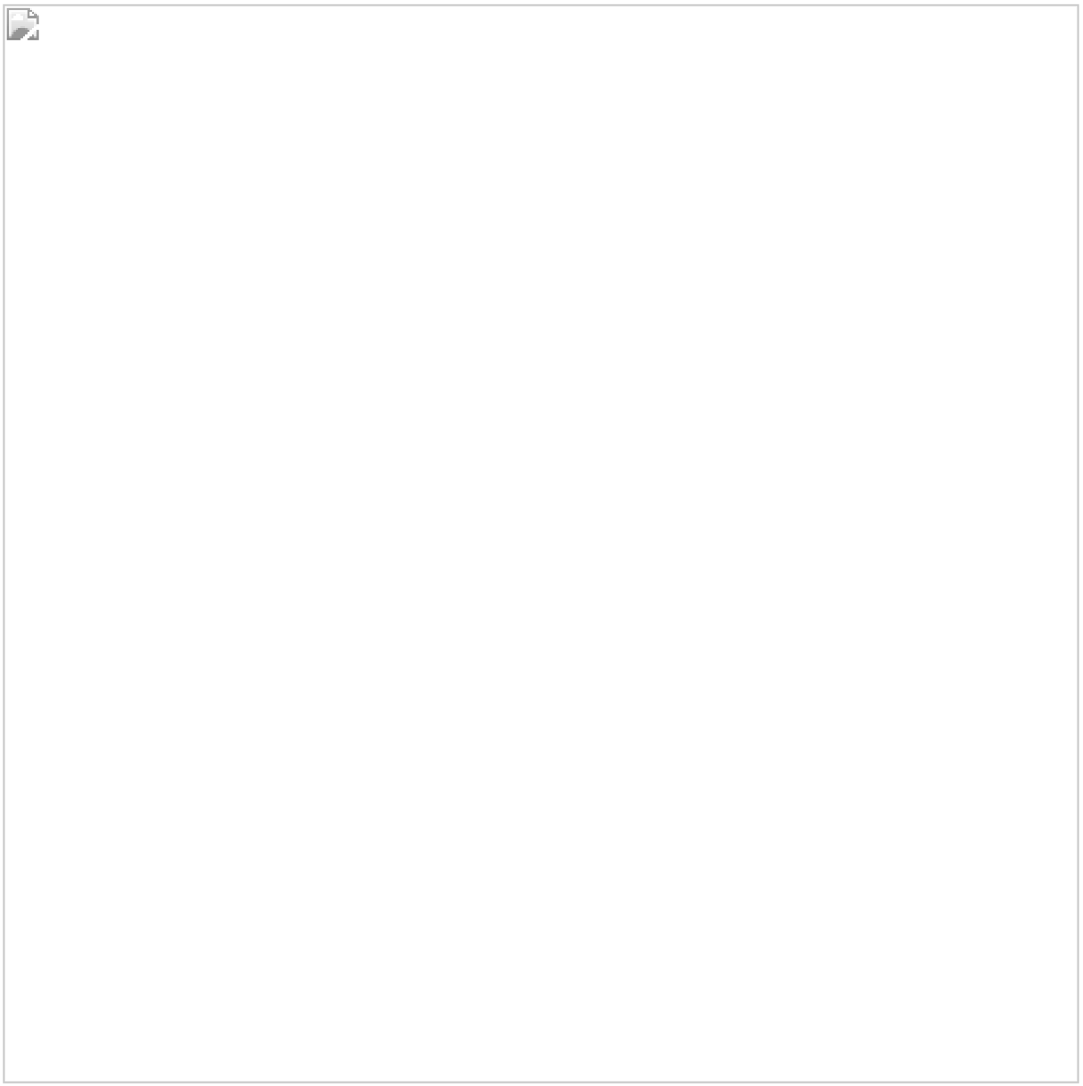


Think about it

1. What caught the sword?

- ○ A hand rising from the lake
- ○ A fisherman
- ○ A bird

The Barge



“Carry me to the lake,” said Arthur. Sir Bedivere carried him down to the water's edge. A barge lay there, and in it sat three queens in black hoods, who wept when they saw the King.

“Lay me in the barge,” said the King. He rested his head on the lap of the fairest queen, and they rowed away.

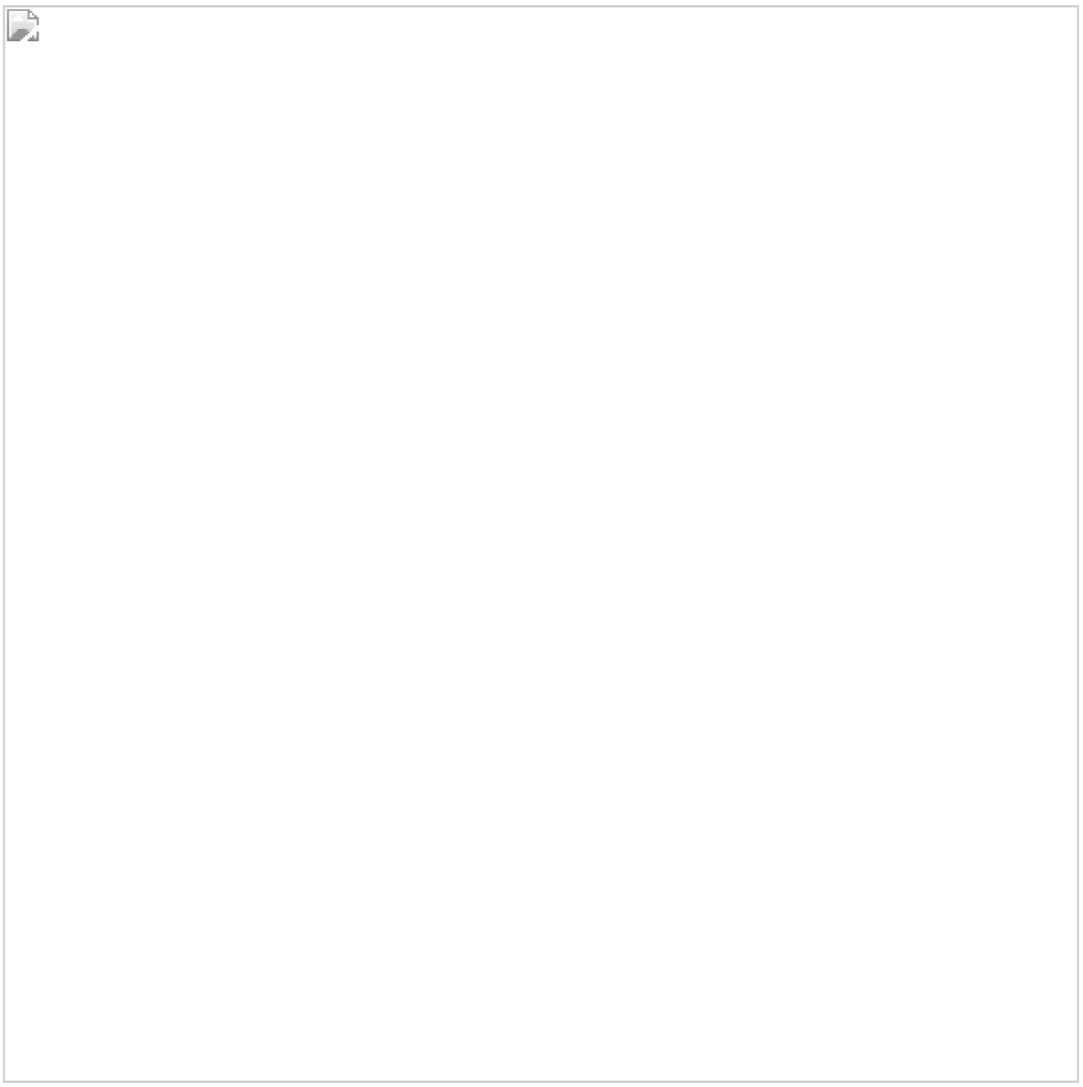
Sir Bedivere watched until the barge was out of sight. Then he went sadly to a hermitage and lived as a hermit for the rest of his life.

Some say that King Arthur was healed in a faraway valley. Some say he is gone. And some say he will come again.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sir Bedivere stayed faithful to the end. What do you think he thought about, in the hermitage, all those years?

The Barge · another picture



Think about it

1. Where did Sir Bedivere live afterward?

- ○ In Camelot
- ○ In a hermitage
- ○ On a ship

2. Some say King Arthur will come again. What would you hope for, if he did?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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